

Epi News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

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MEETING: 2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM, Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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FRI. JAN. 27

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ringing in the new!

...Pat Stebbins

I would like to wish you a most happy and healthy new year. I hope the coming year will be everything the old one wasn't, and that you will all attain your heart's desire, in at least some small degree.

Have you noticed how the more years we get under our belts, the shorter they get (and the longer the belt gets)?

- and why is it when you go to put away the Christmas decorations, it always takes more boxes than you got them out of?

- and if you receive four new plants as gifts, you will only have three pots on hand, and none the right size?

Well, these profound questions will never have appropriate answers I suppose, and there are more serious problems that require our concern (such as the "here I am half way down the hall and where was I going and what for" syndrome).

Seriously now, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society can certainly be proud of itself for 1983. When you look back and see what we've accomplished - the new Wild Animal Park shadehouse, the fruitful results of both the Search and Research Committee and the Education Committee, the expansion of our very fine Library. Considering that the SDES has been in existence only 14 years, looks like we're on a roll now, friends!

At the risk of this sounding like a pep talk, maybe this is the year to get involved if you aren't now - to finally make it to one of those committee meetings you've been reading about - or a work party at the WAP. To bring some cuttings for the cutting table auction, or some goodies for the refreshment table. To help out setting up or cleaning up at the general meeting. AND EVEN IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO DO ANY OF THESE THINGS, just coming to the meetings and supporting the society, makes your membership a viable one just by being there!

If you're one of our members who are not within meeting distance and depend on the Epi News alone, are we fulfilling your needs? What addition could we make to the newsletter to make it better? Let us hear from you.

There now, that wasn't so bad was it? There are no people like Epi People - aren't you glad you are one? I sure am!



JANUARY MEETING, Jan.11



A great beginning... a slide program collaboration of Lois and Bob Burks of California Epi Center and Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens. Epi Center will show hybrid epis, day and night-blooming cereus and species; Rainbow Gardens will show Christmas and Easter cactus. Cuttings and plants from both will be in the cutting table auction. Don't miss this one!

The proposed by-laws will be presented for membership approval at this meeting also, don't forget to bring your copy if you are going to need it.



JANUARY REFRESHMENTS

...Penny Bunker

Happy New Year everyone! After a busy holiday time and a wonderful awards banquet, we will be jumping into a new, active term of growing plants--if the weather allows all to go well. The following helpful folk have signed up for goodies in January:

Catherine Burger	Michiko Munda
Susie Ellis	Nate Ogdon
Madeline French	Irmela Paul
Elizabeth Glover	Gene Schmedding
Sako Hook	Helen Barkdoll
Mary Killian	



EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time I have left in manufacturer's names when referring to a specific plant food, pest control, snail bait, etc., but I wish to make it clear that the

Society does not endorse any one brand name over another. This is purely a personal choice. Many of the products we use are made specifically for this climate (zone) and are not available in other areas, and vice versa. For nearly every product named there is an equivalent available elsewhere, and careful reading of labels or talking to your local nursery people will give you the right product for your need.

...Pat Stebbins



DECEMBER 1983 MEETING, ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

...Gene Schmedding

Our annual awards dinner held at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island was a huge success. Many thanks to our chairman Dorothy Breining. A wonderful job Dorothy. Also to her cochairman Cecile Bradley, who lent an ever willing hand. There were 115 hungry souls in attendance and the food was delicious and in great abundance. The tables were prettily decorated with poinsettias.

The entertainment was something very special. "The Main Attraction" group from the Academy of Performing Arts, Sweetwater School District, gave us a program of music and dance that won't soon be forgotten. If all the energy that those boys and girls used in performing could be channeled into our utility system, it would light up our houses for at least a year. They were wonderful. What can I say.

Ruth Nelson, widow of our first president Bill Nelson, was honored with a lovely large Christmas cactus, and it was then announced that a perpetual trophy "The William and Ruth Nelson Award for the Best Epiphytic Cactus Plant" would be awarded every year at our annual Epiphyllum Show on Mother's Day, beginning with the 1984 show.

Other members who were specially recognized for service in the past year were Frank Granatowski, Elinor Latimer, Gene Schmedding, Jerry Plaisted, Randy Light, Dorothy and Nate Ogdon, Ernest Angus, Penny

EPIPHYLLUM CULTURE FOR THE
MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY

...Pat Stebbins

Bunker, Marian Foster, Dr. Hafiz, and Pat Stebbins.

On a more personal note. I had the most wonderful surprise last weekend - Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Bitter from Alaska, came to visit. They have been longtime members of the ESA (and SDES). They brought pictures of the new house that they are building in Homer, Alaska.

Nicer people you will never meet. We talked up a storm for nearly four hours. I also had company from Oregon, so the men talked fishing (what else?) and we gals just gabbed about the usual things. They have access to all the "on the hoof" meat they can freeze and can. Also all the fish they need. What a life. Their new address is Conrad and Daisy Bitter, P.O. Box 1922, Homer, Alaska 99603. They would like to hear from anyone that would care to write to them.

Ethel Hurst (Hurst Nursery) is at home now, recovering from surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery, Ethel. (Ethel's address, 12059 Lambert Ave., El Monte, California 91732.)

Now, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year, and leave you with this thought for the coming year.

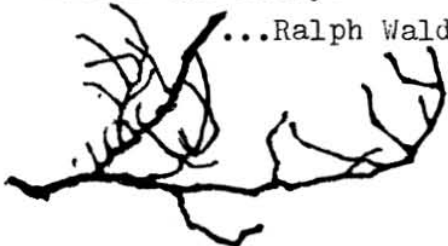
"Friendship - For aid and comfort through all the relations and passages of life and death.

It is fit for serene days, and graceful gifts, and country rambles, but also for rough roads

and hard fare, shipwreck, poverty, and persecution.

It keeps company with the sallies of the wit and the traces of religion. We are to dignify to each other the daily needs and offices of man's life, and embellish it by courage, wisdom and unity.

...Ralph Waldo Emerson"



This is the time of year to regularly clean out your pots of the debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) that the winter winds are depositing. Debris that stays in your pot makes a lovely hiding place for snails and slugs.

With the winter winds come the frequent rains which, if you are collecting for future use, should be stored in covered containers to keep out unwanted guests such as larva and algae.

You should be seeing signs of the coming blooms on the leaf areoles by now. A slight swelling and fuzzy growth says it's going to be a bloom in about 3-4 months. So remember - if you want a particular plant in a special spot to view it's blooms, move it now if you have not already. The buds form facing the strongest light, so if you change directions on your pot the bud is not mature enough to handle it and it may fall off or become deformed.

Your epis can now be fed a low nitrogen or nitrogen free fertilizer. Reading fertilizer labels gives you a wide choice of liquid or timed-release. The labels always give the elements in the same order:

EXAMPLE (only):

		high bloom	growth
1st no.	Nitrogen	0 or 2%	10%
2nd no.	Phosphoric Acid	10%	5%
3rd no.	Potash	10%	5%

There are combinations of various proportions to please your particular needs - so hunt and read labels. Epis have been known to bloom their little bottoms off without any help whatsoever - but they do love all the T.L.C. they can get, and will show it!

If you fertilize with a liquid, most of the labels say repeat in 2 weeks or a month depending on strength of application.

It's not too late for pruning or shaping your plant, but do it carefully so as not to risk the coming buds.

Bait for snails and slugs on a routine basis ALL YEAR!



NOTES FROM THE SEARCH AND RESEARCH
COMMITTEE

...Greg Balvin

Well, it looks like another year has come and gone. And supposedly(!) we are all a bit more knowledgeable, a little bit wiser, for our having become a little older. I don't know about you, but although I DO feel a bit older, I know I'm not much wiser, especially when it comes to EPI-KNOWLEDGE. There are so many stories, so many "facts" circulating about the species we are devoted to, that sometimes I wonder "who's running the presses, anyhow?" A good forinstance: ZENOBIA (IMD) - According to reference volumes "A large white flower, with yellow to brown back petals". According to Mr. Daly's own slides, a nice orange flower. According to Greg's own plant, a nice orange flower!! So where do we go from here?! This and other questions are hashed out the 3rd Monday of every month in Room 106, Casa del Prado, at 7:30 PM. This month's lucky date just happens to be the 16th of January, so all who are interested, please feel free to come down for a look-see.

As a continuing series, we are listing varieties of older hybrids that would seem to be unavailable at this time, and we would most appreciate any help that could be forthcoming in locating them.

As mentioned before, any response is for data purposes ONLY. Noone is going to come beating on your door. All responses will be kept confidential. So, if you have any tidbits we would love to hear from you. Here, then is list No. 2.

AJAX	ALICE
ALABASTER	ALICE CANFIELD
ALLADIN	ALICE RODDENBERRY
ALAMENDINE	ALICE WILSON
ALAMO	ALINE
ALASKAN STATE	ALLEE PATTERSON
ALBATROSS	ALLURA
ALBERT CALVIN SIPE	ALLURE
ALBERT CROUSSE	ALLUROSA
ALBERT COURANT	ALMA MATER

This list is to be continued next month. Our thanks to one and all for the cooperation the committee has received in the past year. We hope to

be able to continue in the same spirit of comaraderie, and hopefully make as much progress this coming year as we have this past one. Once again, thanks!



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

...Helen Barkdoll

Season's Greetings for a prosperous New Year! May all your epi's bloom!

Remember to add your blooming epis to the winter list on the library table. This year we have had more different off-season flowers than ever. Epiphyllums are interesting and amazing plants to work with.

Several people are now trying a fertilizer experiment. After a plant blooms well, it often goes into a period of shriveling up and looking awful. The consensus of opinion is that it has depleted itself of some vital nutrient. In hopes of alleviating this, several people are using a time-release fertilizer (15-15-15), a tablespoon to a gallon pot (sprinkled around the edge of the pot and avoiding getting it on the plant itself). We will let you know the results after blooming season when the reports are in. A few epiphyllums are susceptible to nitrogen burn, but the majority like the extra nitrogen.

Fertilizers and other topics will be discussed at the next meeting of the Education Committee, Saturday Jan. 14, at the home of Kathie Van Arum, 1825 "I" Ave., National City, rain or shine! Kathie has a special setup for her patio epis. We hope to see as many as can make it.



Tea-water, tired
waiting while we
watched the snow...
Froze itself a hat

Sokan



HOW TO GROW EPIPHYLLUMS FROM SEED
...Helen Barkdoll

Want to name an epiphyllum after your son or daughter? Have a special name of endearment you call your spouse? A secret password? With a little luck and a lot of patience you might even have a winner! The Education Committee is offering you a chance to develop your own epiphyllum from seed. Several of the local hybridizers have generously made seed from their special crosses available to the membership for \$1.00 a packet.

The Epiphyllum species and their resulting hybrids offer an exciting challenge to the plant breeder. The plant has been bred for flower size, shape, color, and texture. The stems have been bred for size, shape, upright or pendant habit. There has been some research in the direction of better root systems. It has been only recently that good, true, yellow-flowered epis have been developed. There is so much yet to explore through the systematic and scientific hybridization of this specialized Cactaceae.

Growing epis from seed is very rewarding in the knowledge gained. Many people do not know what a seedling epiphyllum looks like. One method of starting this experience requires only the space of a saucer, a small pot, some potting soil and the seeds.

Thoroughly wet the soil and sprinkle the seeds evenly over the wet surface. It is not necessary to cover the seed as long as you keep the soil damp and the atmosphere humid by covering the pot with a glass jar or plastic cover. (Fig. 1)

Soon the black, oval seeds will start to germinate (Fig. 2). At first the seed coat will start to split, then the root will emerge. Cotyledons (seed leaves) will enlarge and break open the seed. Slowly, a little pin-cushion of growth will develop between the cotyledons. It bears little resemblance to a mature epiphyllum plant. That is one of the reasons why it is so interesting to watch a seedling grow - it goes through definite stages.



Fig. 1

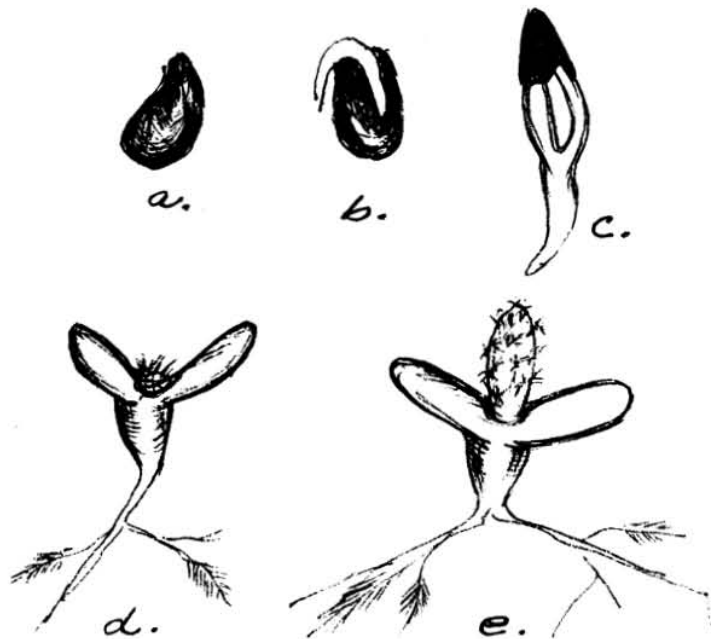


Fig. 2

Remove the cover when the plants have reached the top.

After it has gained a certain size, the seedling will start to change its shape (Fig. 3). It will no longer be a cylinder of spines, but will start to flatten out the branches. Some will stay triangular, but most will eventually become flat and lose their spines (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Seedlings should be encouraged to grow fast by giving them a liquid fertilizer such as Stern's Miracle Grow (15-30-15) every time you water them. You may get your epiphyllums to flower in a couple of years, but beware of letting your new plant overbloom itself the first few years because you are so anxious to see the mass bloom. It takes three years of blooming to establish the true bloom, and to be recognized by the Epiphyllum Society of America for registration.

Many of the seeds available have been hybridized for special reasons. If you are interested in a certain type, ask about a specific cross. Have fun and enjoy the new experience!

EPIPHYLLUM SEEDS

...Dick Chadwick

I have always read that epiphyllum seeds that float should be thrown out as they were infertile. Recently, I noticed that certain plants will produce seeds that 50 to 90 percent of the seeds will float. I examined these seed and they looked normal, nice and black, plump, not flat, and they came from a good ripe apple. I made two test plantings of these seeds and had approximately 50 percent germination on one batch and 80 percent on the other batch.

There is always some underdeveloped, infertile seeds in every apple, so if just a few seeds float, you could safely throw them away. If many seeds float, make a test planting of them, drying the remainder of the seed for a later planting if the test proves satisfactory.

CLASSIFIEDS

California Epi Center wants to remind you that your \$3 Early Bird Coupon is good through the end of February and may be used with any purchase totaling \$15 or more. You may purchase your plants by mail, by phone (credit card), or at the nursery. If you'd like to visit the nursery, please call first...if we're here you're welcome to come by. As usual, we have a very large selection of rooted epiphyllums, rhipsalis, rattail cacti and holiday cacti.

California Epi Center, P.O. Box 1431 (1444 E. Taylor St.) Vista, California 92083. Phone (619) 758-4290.

NAME TAGS

Jeannie Burger will take your order for a SDES nametag (blue plastic with a pin-back). They are \$2.65 including tax. Call Jeannie, 280-6747.

Note: Only 4 months until the annual Epi Show - are you planning your display yet? "California Odyssey for 1984" will be a theme long remembered!

